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**FY 2019**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **November 7, 2018.**

*(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	Southwest Butte Boundary Fence
<b>District Name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Salmon River Ranger District
<b>County where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Crystal Dannar 839-2128 cdannar@fs.fed.us
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T25N, R2E, Sec 15-16, 21, 28-29, Idaho County.
<b>District Ranger / Line Officer's Name</b> <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Jeffrey Shinn
<b>Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?</b>	No
<b>Which CE Category does this project fit?</b> <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(9)  <u><i>(9) Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an allotment management plan is not yet in place. Examples include but are not limited to:</i></u> <i>(i) Rebuilding a fence to improve animal distribution;</i> <i>(ii) Adding a stock watering facility to an existing water line; and</i> <i>(iii) Spot seeding native species of grass or applying lime to maintain forage condition.</i>

A Project Record or written Decision are not required for projects using 36 CFR 220.6 (d) categories.

If a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) project, does the Decision Maker want it to go through the Small NEPA process?

Yes      No

*If no, this form **does not** need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.*

*If yes, provide the category below, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.*

**CE Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(  )

**At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?**

Internal   X        External\*       

*Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.*

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. Postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter will be used for larger mailings. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see \* below), unless otherwise specified.*

*\*For external scoping, please to complete block below. Note: please enter "NA" if left empty on purpose*

**Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. \*, with their mailing address and/or email address, who will be included for external Scoping. DO NOT provide only a name.**

NA

*\* The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will routinely be scoped. The following will also be included on all SN scoping/ mailing lists: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

**What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?**

  X   **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

       **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little broader). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less three paragraphs.

**List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.**

19C – Manage for livestock forage production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

12C & D – Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

C – 80% Fishery Habitat Potential Maintained.

D - 70% Fishery Habitat Potential Maintained.

**What are the desired conditions (*relevant to your project*) for the Management Area(s) listed above?**

12)  
Range: Structural Improvements – Design structures for protection of regeneration and to facilitate livestock distribution.

19)  
Range: Structural & Non-structural Improvements – Emphasize investments in structural and nonstructural range improvements to maintain range condition.

*Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.*

**Is the project in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)?** Yes\* No X

If yes, which one?

*\* If yes, fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.?** Yes\* No X

If yes, which one(s)?

*\* If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us), 935-4270, **BEFORE** submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

**Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area?** Yes No ☒ X

**Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area?** Yes No ☒ X

If yes, which one?

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** Yes No ☒ X

**Describe the existing condition of the project area.**

Allotment Information:

Allotment	Permittee	Season of Use	Term Livestock #
Fiddle Creek	Fiddle Creek LLC	7/1 – 9/30	100
Allison-Berg	Mick Carlson	5/1 – 10/31 (4/1-10/31)	60 C/c & 7 H/m

The project area lies along the ridgeline boundary between Fiddle Creek and Allison-Berg Allotment between Chair Point Lookout and Southwest Butte. This area is characterized by Scabland Sage and Sandberg Bluegrass habitat type. These sites occur on upper slopes of West-central Idaho canyons, and have shallow, weakly developed soils over a basalt substrate. This is a fragile ecosystem, upon which grazing must be closely managed.

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action\*?**

The purpose of the proposed boundary fence is to address a concern of livestock drifting from Fiddle Creek Allotment and into the Allison-Berg Allotment. As mentioned above in the existing condition section, this ridgeline has a very fragile ecosystem that the permittee's have worked to protect from over-use. However, the Teepee Springs Fire removed natural barriers that once prevented Fiddle Creek livestock from topping out onto the boundary ridgeline. The permittee for Fiddle Creek Allotment has requested this boundary fence, with the support of the adjacent Allison-Berg permittee.

Although the NEPA request is for approval of a fence from Southwest Butte to Chair Point Lookout, the fence will only be constructed in parts and pieces on an as-needed basis. The purpose for this is to build only those portions of the boundary fence that are needed and effective; however, the permittee(s) will have the flexibility to extend it, or build new segments without going through the approval process each and every time an adjustment is necessary.

*\* The purpose and need describes: Why is the action being proposed at this location at this time (what is the problem, the need for the action?)? And what is the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action?*

**Describe the Proposed Action.**

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document.

Please provide detailed descriptions of the following in narrative paragraph form:

- who will do the work,
- where the work will take place,
- how the project area / site will be accessed,
- what specific actions / activities will be implemented,
- what equipment will be used to accomplish the above actions,
- what monitoring / additional actions will be done post-implementation,
- when the work will start, and how long it will take to complete the project.

Will the project change access restrictions? If so, how? **No.**

Will any permits, etc. be needed before the project can start? If so, what and from who? Improvement Permit provided by the Rangeland Management Specialist.

Personnel/Materials: Fence materials will be provided by the USFS, and are currently in stock. Fence construction labor and equipment will be provided by permittee(s).

Location/Access: The fence will extend south from Southwest Butte along FS trail #118 till adjoining with an existing fence at Chair Point Lookout, or more specifically identified on the attached map. All fence sections along trail 118 are accessible by ATV and UTV.

Equipment/Disturbance: No equipment use is anticipated, only hand tools. Disturbance is anticipated to be minor.

Construction: Will occur in sections as identified on the attached map, and further explained in the purpose and need statement. The exact location of fence may vary by 100' or so depending on vegetation, snow drifts and trail #118. Each permittee has agreed the fence should be built where it makes sense, regardless of allotment boundary lines. Due to the heavy snow load in this area the fence will be a let-down style 3-strand barbed wire, and barbless 4<sup>th</sup> bottom wire fence with steel and wood post spacing no more than 24' apart with three wood stays. Wood posts may require rock jacks where they, or steel, cannot be driven into rocky soils.

Monitoring: Range improvement maintenance monitoring will be conducted post-implementation to ensure fences are kept in working order.

Schedule: Upon approval, work may start Spring 2019. Although the NEPA request is for approval of a fence from Southwest Butte to Chair Point Lookout, the fence will only be constructed in parts and pieces on an as-needed basis. The purpose for this is to build only those portions of the boundary fence that are needed and effective; however, the permittee(s) will have the flexibility to extend it, or build new segments without going through the approval process each and every time an adjustment is necessary in years to come.

Again, please provide a narrative description of the Proposed Action.

**List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures \* to be included with the Proposed Action.**

Item #	Project Design & Mitigation Measures	Implementation Method	Effectiveness
1	Remove all mud, dirt, and plant parts from all off road equipment before moving into project area. Cleaning must occur off National Forest lands. (This does not apply to service vehicles that will stay on the roadway, traveling frequently in and out of the project area.)	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories
2	Identify and report invasive species infestations, on or adjacent to the activity sites, to the District Weed Coordinator.	Applicable to all activities and personnel	High, based on inventories

*\* Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form*

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mhays01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhays01@fs.fed.us); 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, [dbawdon@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbawdon@fs.fed.us);

Heritage – Steve Lucas, [slucas@fs.fed.us](mailto:slucas@fs.fed.us); 983-4040

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cvalle@fs.fed.us](mailto:cvalle@fs.fed.us); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martinjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:martinjones@fs.fed.us); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us); 935-4270

Soils – Robert Bergstrom, [robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us); 963-4287

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, [chnoyes@fs.fed.us](mailto:chnoyes@fs.fed.us); 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [jameslutes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jameslutes@fs.fed.us); 963-4202

## PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
  - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
  - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
  - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
  - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5\_\_1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
  - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
  - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
  - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

**The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.**

## SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

**PROPONENT:** When submitting the shapefile(s) you must include in the email how the location(s) of the project feature(s), i.e. line, point, and/or polygon, were determined (see below):

- Field-collected GPS data;
- From existing corporate GIS data (provide name of GIS layer);
- Created (digitized) from an aerial photo;
- Created (digitized) from the existing corporate GIS data;
- Created (digitized) from the NPCLW Visitor Map;
- Other (describe).

## Projects in Roadless Area

<b>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</b>  <i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i>	<b><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></b>
<b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<b>Classification(s):</b>
<b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i>	
<b>Does the project involve cutting trees?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i>	
<b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i>	



Additional Information: